

The danger of falling away

Hebrews 6:1-8

- I. GROWING IN MATURITY IS URGENT (HEBREW 6:1-3).
 - A. Believers in Christ must progress beyond these basic truths we learn when we first believe in Christ (1-2).
 1. Turning from faith in dead works to saving faith in Christ
 2. Understanding baptism and the indwelling Holy Spirit
 3. Understanding eternal life and eternal judgment
 - B. With God's help we must press on to maturity (3, see 9).
- II. SOME BELIEVERS CAN FALL AWAY INTO DENYING THE FAITH OR BECOMING FRUITLESS (HEBREW 6:4-8).
 - A. Apostasy: The extreme spiritual tragedy is when a believer changes to deny the truths that saved them (Hebrew 6:4-6).
 1. True believers can "fall away" from their faith (4-5).
 - They were once for all enlightened spiritually.
 - They experienced the gift of salvation.
 - They received the Holy Spirit.
 - They experienced the goodness of God's Word.
 - They experienced God's power (miracles/answered prayer).
 2. Believers who apostatize do not repent; instead, they deny truth like those who crucified Christ (6).
 - Fall away – To deny truth about Christ they once believed.
 - Loss – Not loss of salvation (2 Tim. 2:13; John 6:37; 10:27) but personal disaster, damage to others, and loss of rewards (see below).
 - B. Fruitlessness: Believers must mature, and bear fruit God blesses, or by failing to serve Christ they will miss out (6:7-8).
 1. God's plan is that every believer bear lasting spiritual fruit that God blesses and rewards eternally (7; John 15:8, 16).
 2. When we do not bear fruit, we tragically miss out on God's blessing and rewards (8; John 15:6; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15).